MINNESOTA AG NEWS

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WOOL PRODUCTION

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MINNESOTA WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN 5%

Minnesota's 1999 wool output decreased 5% with production totaling 1,000,000 pounds compared with 1,055,000 in 1998, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Minnesota ranked 12th in 1999 wool production.

The 150,000 sheep and lambs shorn in 1999 were down 6% from the 160,000 sheep and lambs shorn in 1998. Fleece weight averaged 6.7 pounds, up from 6.6 pounds the previous year.

Value of the state's 1999 wool production was \$150,000, down 58% from the previous year's value of \$359,000. Average price per pound for 1999 was 15 cents compared to 34 cents in 1998.

U.S. WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN 5%

Total U.S. shorn wool production during 1999, at 46.5 million pounds, was down 5% from 1998.

The 6.15 million sheep and lambs shorn in 1999 in the U.S. declined 4% from the previous year. Average fleece weight at 7.57 pounds was down from the 7.66 in 1998. Total value of shorn wool was \$17.9 million, down sharply from the \$29.4 million in 1998. The average U.S. price per pound was 38 cents for 1999 compared with 60 cents in 1998.

